Weston Community Garden at Lachat Town Farm
Membership POLICY

Eligibility: All Weston residents, employees of the town of Weston or local organizations are welcome to apply for garden plots. Local businesses may also sponsor a plot. Any plots not rented by May 15 will be offered to existing gardeners on a lottery basis.

Fees: For the gardening season of 2014, fees are $75 for a 4'x12' raised garden bed with fresh soil "ready to plant", $110 for a 4'x20' raised bed or $50 for a 4'x7' bed. An additional, refundable "clean up" deposit of $40 (4'x7') or $60 (larger sizes) is required. Those with financial hardship, please speak to a Lachat Committee member about reduced fees or waivers. Please make checks out to Town of Weston Lachat Enterprise Fund and mail them along with signed application agreement to: Kim Burke at 54 Old Farm Road. Plots will be assigned on a first-come, first serve basis and we anticipate there will be enough plots for all applicants this year.

Guests and kids: Members may bring guests into the garden as long as they are accompanied by a member at all times. Kids love gardening! Please make sure they are properly supervised.

Security: Gardeners should assure that the water in their section of the garden is turned off and that the gate is closed when they leave. The gate should be kept closed at all times to keep rabbits and other wildlife out of the garden.

Chemical policy: No chemical pesticides or herbicides are permitted on the property. All members must follow organic gardening practices - failure to do so is grounds for forfeiture. Please ask garden managers for help and advice if you are unsure of the parameters.

Raised beds: Will be provided. Use of pressure-treated wood is prohibited. We encourage you to help us plant flowers in designated beds around the farm, but please take advantage of the healthy organic soil in your bed to grow delicious, nutrient dense food plants for your family.

Lachat Property: All tools that are the property of the Lachat Community Garden are to be returned to the barn when not in use, and are not to be removed. We are not responsible for gardeners' personal property.

Garden Don'ts: No smoking is allowed. No dogs are allowed. No glass bottles or containers are allowed.

GARDEN RULES and INFO

Planting: Trees, and tall crops such as corn are not allowed in raised beds due to shading of other beds. Please do not plant invasive perennials with root systems that may spread to other beds.

Water: Return the hose head to the faucet when done with the hose. Turn the water off at the faucet when you are done with the water. Please straighten any kinks in the hose. Limit use of hose to 15 minutes if there are others waiting for the hose. Water is turned on May 1 and turned off Nov. 15.

Garden Debris/Compost/Rocks: Only compostable items may be placed in the designated compost area. Rocks should be place in the designated rock pile. All other items must be removed from the garden.

Plot Maintenance: Crops must be harvested as they ripen, and spent plants must be removed in a timely fashion so that they do not go to seed and spread to other gardens. Plots should be maintained in a condition that will not interfere with abutting plots or paths.

Compliance: All plots will be reviewed each month from May – October for compliance with the garden rules. Gardeners found out of compliance will be notified and given 10 days to remedy the violation or they may forfeit their plot.

Clean-up Fee Refund: Withdrawing gardeners may have their clean-up fee returned to them if they notify the Membership Coordinator of their plans to leave the garden. To receive the refund all gardens must be left weed free, be covered with a weed barrier provided by LCG and may be required to remove all structures/ornaments/objects and perennial plants from their plot.

Annual Meeting: Our annual meeting will be held at the library on a weekday evening in January. All current and prospective members are invited to attend.

Grow-a-Row: Garden volunteers will maintain several plots for the Weston Food Bank. If you are interested in donating plants or adopting a bed please contact the Grow-a-Row contact. Additionally, during peak harvest season, a cooler is placed at the end of the bed from Monday afternoon until Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon until Friday morning. Gardeners may place excess produce in the cooler, where it will be collected and delivered to the Food Bank.

Garden Gurus: We will host several gardening workshops throughout the season and will maintain a list of volunteer experts who can be contacted by phone, email or onsite.

Gardeners for Hire: The membership coordinator will also provide a list of people available to hire for gardening assistance.

APPLICATION and AGREEMENT

o I will have something planted in my garden by June 1 and keep it planted and weeded throughout the growing season. I will dispose of all weeds in the proper composting area. I will clean up my plot and prepare it for winter by November 1.

o I will visit my plot at least twice weekly to plant, water, weed, harvest and maintain it. I will contact the garden coordinator if I am unable to do so at any time. I understand that if I abandon my garden for more than two weeks without having given prior notice (i.e. vacation, illness, etc), my plot will be reassigned.

o I agree to participate in general garden maintenance, spring or fall clean-up days, mowing aisles, construction work or administrative work of up to 4 hours per season.

o I commit to using approved organic gardening methods and will not use chemical fertilizer, weed-killer or insecticide in or near the gardens.

o I agree to follow the rules of the Weston Community Garden and I understand that my use of the garden is at my own risk. I agree to hold harmless the garden overseers, coordinators and Town of Weston for any liability, damage, loss or claim that occurs in connection with the use of the garden by me or any of my guests.

Enclosed is my check for _____ and my deposit of _____

for plot size _____.

_____
Gardener's Name

_____
Gardener's Address

_____
Gardener's Email

_____
Gardener's Phone #'s